

REMARKS

With the present Amendment, claims 19 and 20 are cancelled. Claims 4 and 12 were previously cancelled. Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended herein to more patentably define and distinctly claim aspects of the claimed invention. Certain of the dependent claims are also amended to reflect the amendments to the respective independent claims. Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims patentably distinguish over the combination of Yamada '157 and Behm '742, as set forth below.

Yamada '157 is the primary reference in the obviousness combination, with Behm '742 cited as teaching of a game card with printed conductive elements. Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims as amended and presented herein are so fundamentally different from the Yamada '157 reference that the obviousness rejection cannot stand, regardless of the teachings of Behm '742.

The apparatus of independent claim 1 is amended herein to positively set forth that the game card includes game information stored thereon. The game card is adapted for connection with the interface, wherein connection of the game card to the interface permits a player to initiate play of the game. The game information on the game card is contained in printed conductive elements. Once the game card is inserted into the game interface, the electronic game device implements the game. However, as set forth in claim 1, the outcome of the game is predetermined solely by the information on the game card and is displayed on the game device display. The outcome of the game is not changed by and is not a function of any subsequent player interaction with the electronic game device. In other words, in the embodiment of a lottery game

wherein a lottery card or ticket is inserted into the electronic game device, whether or not the lottery card is a winning card is dictated solely by the game information on the card and cannot be influenced or changed by any action of the player. The electronic game device may contain program instructions for presenting play of the game to the player, including interaction of the player with the game device. However, such interaction has no effect on the outcome of the game. The information contained on the lottery ticket dictates whether or not the player will win a prize award. In essence, the electronic game device is a means to display to the player whether or not the game card is a winning game card.

The lottery game apparatus of independent claim 11 has been similarly amended and the discussion set forth above with respect to claim 1 applies to claim 11.

The game system of Yamada '157 is fundamentally unrelated to the systems of claims 1 and 11. Yamada '157 implements a challenge game between different players. In essence, Yamada '157 creates a computer simulation of a card game wherein players duel or battle with different cards having different point values, capabilities, and the like. With the system of Yamada '157, the players insert cards into a card reader that contain identification information with respect to each card. The computer uses this identification information to create a set of cards for the user to eventually use in a battle or contest with another player. This battle or contest is conducted with the electronic game device, and the outcome is no way predetermined by the information on the cards. The outcome of the game is a function of the player's skill against a component in the particular game. The outcome of the game is not predetermined by the identification information on the cards.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the game concepts and system of Yamada '157 is fundamentally different from that of independent claims 1 and 11. The teachings of Behm '742 do not rectify the deficiencies noted with respect to Yamada '157. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 11 patentably distinguish over the cited combination of references, and are allowable. Claims 2, 3, and 6-10 only further patentably define the invention of independent claim 1, and are allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable. Likewise, claims 13-18 only further patentably define the invention of claim 11, and are allowable for at least the reasons claim 11 is allowable.

With the present Amendment, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,
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